

AMERICAN HABITS

REIGNITING OUR
CAPACITY FOR
SELF-GOVERNMENT.

About

Self-government and federalism are under constant threat. Furthermore, many leaders are working to undermine our system of government, while others don't understand federalism and our essential system of separation of powers.

American Habits is an online platform that will make the case for practical, understandable federalism so that policymakers and influencers, SPN's Network, and citizens are persuaded to solve more problems through state and local solutions rather than accept the overreach and divisiveness of D.C.'s political class. The content will consist of interviews, essays, book and film reviews, and excerpts of notable quotes and passages on federalism.

Name

We didn't want to be tagged with an obviously ideological name. We want readers and potential contributors to pause and reflect on the meaning and purpose of our name. Our name reflects Tocqueville's notable phrase "habits of the heart" from *Democracy in America*, which gets at the necessary moral, cultural, and intellectual state of the people. All these characteristics play a critical role for our collective and individual capacity for self-government. We want readers to be continually reminded of their birthright and their great American heritage as a self-governing people.

Target audience

Our readers come from all walks of life. While this is certainly a lay and popular publication for state and local lawmakers and concerned citizens over the growth of centralized power in Washington D.C., much of our content is meant to inspire civic participation and renewal. We want to equip lawmakers and citizens alike with practical solutions for change. We want to remind readers what is possible and what can be accomplished. Self-government, federalism, local control, decentralization, and the rights of the people are cornerstones.

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Guiding Principles

American Habits is a non-partisan publication favorable to enduring truths like the need to place real restraints on the government and empowering citizens toward a culture of self-governance. Questions like “What is our capacity for self-government?” are much more essential than “Who won the election?”

We desire to champion a robust civil discourse and focus on practical stories on why federalism not only works, but is the superior system designed by America’s framers. As the adage reminds us: The best government is that which is closest to the governed. Washington is broken – in part because it tries to do so much it shouldn’t. *American Habits* exists to help end that.